

Richmond Times-Dispatch

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The Advance of the Allies

THAT forward movement of the allies expected a week ago seems to have been begun. Russian successes in the east have made it necessary for some of the army corps defending the long German line in the west to be shifted to Poland, and these reinforcements account, it is probable, for General von Hindenburg's dramatic counterattack and the fall or investment of Lodz.

Shortly before the British army in Belgium and Northern France had been strengthened substantially, and the French had brought up new levies. Now, apparently, there is an advance in many parts of the allied line. One of its most important purposes, it may be assumed, is to push the Germans back across their own frontier, or, if that be not feasible, to drive them as far as may be from French soil. Just now the Germans are living in part on their enemies, and that is conducive among the allies neither to economic efficiency nor to military morale.

Following a Good Example

DECISION by the faculty of the University of Virginia that the university football eleven hereafter shall not play on any save its own home grounds or those of its opponent—a general rule to which the annual Virginia-North Carolina game in Richmond is made the only exception—merely emulates the example of other large institutions of learning throughout the country.

The purpose, of course, is to divest the game, so far as is possible, of the commercial spirit and increase its measure of true sportsmanship. Football, in the view of the faculty, is becoming much too large a part of college life—of the life not alone of members of the eleven, but of the body of the students as well.

Reform in such a case is an excellent thing. Football furnishes a spectacle that stirs the blood, and it is comforting to Virginian pride to see the university excel in the sport, but, after all, it scarcely embodies quite so much of the purpose for which a boy is sent to college as some of us once thought it did.

Yale, Harvard, all the great institutions of the North and East, play their games with their rivals on college gridirons and diamonds. Virginia does well, in this matter at any rate, to follow in their footsteps.

New Ground of Marriage Annulment

ANNULMENT by a New York judge of the marriage bond in a case where the man had concealed from the woman, before the performance of the ceremony, the fact that he was a victim of tuberculosis, establishes a new precedent and a sweeping one. It may be doubted that it will be followed widely, in the present state of public and legal opinion, but much can be said for its essential sanity and sound policy.

Marriage is a triangular contract, to which the state is the third party. The law conceives that the state has a special and peculiar interest in the marriage relation, on the ground that it is one of the institutions on which the modern state is established. Insanity at the time of marriage is a ground of annulment, and for a double reason. In the first place, a person not in possession of his faculties cannot enter into a valid contract, and in the second the state regards the possible consequence of insane offspring.

It was by analogy to the latter consideration, combined with the question of concealment, that the New York judge reached his decision. He said:

It is for the court, in the exercise of sound discretion and with regard to the public policy because of the peculiar nature of the contract, to determine whether or not the misrepresentation of fact and the probable consequences to be expected are of sufficient importance to cause the court to exercise its power to dissolve the contract in the interests of the parties and of the public at large. I do not think it should be the policy of the court to sustain the obligation of a union which would entail the burdens and dangers that would follow under the circumstances. This includes the danger of transmission and heredity that even science cannot fathom or certainly define.

This is merely a backward application of the theory and policy of eugenics. Without going to the lengths that some of the more ardent followers of this new science would

carry us, it does seem that the state, constantly professing its interest in marriage, might well display a little more concern for those who apply for leave to contract it. When two young persons determine to get married, as many of them do, with the same casual regard for the present and outlook on the future as usually accompany the purchase of half a pound of tea, some state official should be on hand to supply their intellectual deficiencies.

The President's Message

PRESIDENT WILSON'S message to the Congress, which he delivered in person yesterday before the Senate and House of Representatives, is an eloquent and noble expression of his country's sentiment, and aspiration. No loyal American can read it measured and stately periods without a thrill of just pride that, of the land he loves, so much in the best sense inspiring can be truly said.

The message is a rebuke to mad jingo and impracticable pacifist alike. "Dread of the power of any other nation," says the President, "we are incapable of. We are not jealous of rivalry in the fields of commerce or of any other peaceful achievement. We mean to live our own lives as we will; but we mean also to let live. We are, indeed, a true friend to all the nations of the world, because we threaten none, covet the possessions of none, desire the overthrow of none. Our friendship can be accepted, and is accepted, without reservation, because it is offered in a spirit and for a purpose which no one need ever question or suspect. Therein lies our greatness."

No spokesman of American ideals has given them finer expression. In this paragraph Mr. Wilson sums up the true foreign and military policy of a government erected on a foundation of liberty and equality. We fear none; we would be friends with all. We contemplate no aggression, and to defend ourselves against attack, as the President says in another place, we have always found means "without calling our people away from their necessary tasks to render compulsory military service in times of peace."

Mr. Wilson believes in a strong navy, and that our standing army should be kept in the highest condition of preparedness and efficiency. He believes in making military training attractive, so that as many young Americans as possible may receive its benefits and be equipped to impart its lessons to others. All this, he says, the fathers taught; it inheres in the very origin and in all the history of our national structure.

He is unmoved by the jingoes' perverted propaganda—content that they, like the heathen, shall "rage and imagine vain things." So is the great body of the people.

The President urges forcefully the adoption of the measures now pending for the increase of the merchant marine and for the establishment of a sane and helpful policy of conservation. He speaks in behalf of the bill conferring a larger degree of self-government on the people of the Philippines. He pleads that provision be made for the survey and charting of our coasts, especially that of Alaska. He bespeaks approval by the Senate of the international convention for assuring safety at sea. He insists on a wise economy, as contrasted with a foolish and stupid parsimony, in the conduct of government.

Surely partisanship should not cavil nor carking envy bark and snarl at a legislative program so inspired. It is too much to hope, probably, that Senator Lodge, or Representative Gardner, or any of the other fire-eaters, will be satisfied with the President's preparedness policy, or that Colonel Roosevelt will be pleased by anything he says, but the nation as a whole will feel differently. It will recognize in this message, again to use the President's words, "some of the great conceptions and desires which gave birth to this government, and which have made the voice of this people a voice of peace and hope and liberty among the peoples of the world."

Conservation of Good Citizenship

WHILE there has been a gratifying response to the appeal The Times-Dispatch has made in behalf of the unemployment fund of the Associated Charities, there is an enormous discrepancy yet between the need and the means to meet it. Richmond must give even more generously, must invest more largely in this enterprise, which is constructive in the highest sense.

Articles on the business situation which The Times-Dispatch printed yesterday showed that a day of larger prosperity was beginning to dawn. Everywhere there is a lightning of the financial skies, and the glow in the east nowhere is more apparent than it is in Richmond. But such business changes take time. A nation does not recover from a slump in a day or a week, or even in a month. Necessarily and in the nature of things a healthy readjustment must be gradual.

Meantime, we have here a degree of unemployment at least twice the normal for this season of the year, when normal unemployment reaches its peak. Included among the sufferers are the heads of many families—not paupers or beggars, but honest, decent, hard-working folk, to whom their present situation is a spiritual as well as an economic tragedy.

What is Richmond going to do with these men and those who look to them for food and clothing? Will Richmond permit them to sink into a condition of permanent dependence? Will it allow them to want the common necessities of existence? Will Richmond men and women, whose own lives are comfortable and happy, stand idly by while any such ghastly drama is played to its bitter end? The Times-Dispatch thinks not.

There, if you please, is the charity side, the humane side, of this proposition, but there is another. It is a matter of business. A city's chief asset is its citizenship, and that includes the mechanic and the day laborer, as well as the professional man, the banker and the merchant. A segment of that citizenship is threatened—beaten to its knees by a financial storm. There is an effort to conserve it—to raise and straighten the serried ranks, to hold these men in line, so that when this period of stress is over Richmond's industrial army may be intact, productive, useful to itself and to the whole community.

That is true conservation of the best and most valuable of all natural resources. Doesn't it merit your sympathy and help?

The supersensitive business man ought to be reassured by the President's statement that there will be no more regulatory legislation. Those who have suffered from the psychology of fright may now take their courage in their hands and get to work.

With \$30,000 in additional money to spend for clean streets, Richmond should look so much like Spottsville Town that the oldest inhabitant will hardly recognize it.

SONGS AND SAWS

The Fox Trot Frock.

CHICAGO, December 7.—Woman's form has disappeared into a cube. It's fashion's latest—the fox trot frock. It's a thing of the past—modistes have evolved it from clinging skirt and bust and have called it a frock.

Come all and sing the latest thing
In woman's finery!
The clinging gown that won renown
Offends Terephore,
The fox trot frock is now in stock,
Or mighty soon will be.
And maids may skip, or glide, or dip,
As suits their fancy-free.

The form divine, experts opine,
Hereafter will be square.
A shape decreed by fashion's need,
Of room to prance and rear,
With certainty that lingerie
Will hold its own and fear.
The tango shoe and garter, too,
Have been a dancing craze;
But time has sped, their vogue is fled;
They are no more, and dress days.
They cannot block the fox trot frock
That basks in fashion's rays.

The Peeweeist Says:

Another of life's trials is about to strike us. Soon we shall have to listen to all the venerable bores who want to describe what Christmas was when they were boys.

Where to Seek.

Grubbs—Tell me where I can get a first-class porterhouse steak.
Stubbs—Suppose you try some of the jewelry shops. They handle other articles nearly that valuable.

Uncle Zach's Philosophy.

Dar' aln' 'no use in tryin' ter cuah er man wat kin's he knowin' 'bout de ease de awellin' in his hald ter hole it out de spout, but et alluz rises agin.

Some Transformation.

"Jones has changed very much since his marriage. He used to say that man could do what he pleased in this world."
"Well,"
"He doesn't say anything much, but he thinks, I gather, that in the holy estate of matrimony a man can do whatever his wife pleases."

Blood on the Moon.

The jingoes are shouting:
That for war we must prepare;
For half a million dead men
Their clamors fill the air.
But whence will spring this brave array
Somehow they don't make clear.

THE TATTLER.

Chats With Virginia Editors

The nomination of Editor Alfred B. Williams, of the Roanoke Times, for the office of field secretary of the Anti-Saloon League of Virginia is seconded by Editor Wise Worrell, of the Radford Record, who moves to close the nominations and proceed with the balloting. He intimates his belief that, with Colonel Williams in the Rev. J. D. McAllister's shoes and the prohibition law in effect, the Desert of Sahara will look like the Father of Waters in floodtime compared with Virginia.

The Abingdon Virginian strenuously opposes the proposed removal from that town of its seat of learning, saying: "Several towns are working to secure the removal of Stonewall Jackson College. They offer land, money, buildings, patronage. Will we permit them to succeed in taking Stonewall Jackson College away from Abingdon? Not in a thousand years." If the Virginian can hold the question deadlocked that long, the Phillaline opposition will have ceased troubling and the weary will get a rest.

"The stores of Norfolk are ablaze with beautiful Christmas things," the pert paragon of the Ledger-Dispatch announces—not as a call to the fire department, but as an admonition to shop early before the beautiful things are consumed.

Explaining the tardy movement of tobacco to the market, the Page News and Courier says: "Many merchants failed to pay the tobacco tax required by the emergency revenue bill prior to December 1, and, under the terms of the law, are subject to a penalty of 50 per cent of the tax for so doing." The penalty does not apply to the consumer. He will continue to pay as he chews.

"Andrew Carnegie moves to the front of the stage to remark that the astronomers have discovered 172 new worlds," the Norfolk Virginian-Pilot observes. And they have telescopes that give ocular evidence to small extent to their finds, something more concrete than Lieutenant Peary and Doc Cook have to offer.

The envy of Editor Lacy, of the Halifax Gazette, is stirred. He says: "The editor of the Chatham Enterprise has a cinch. He doesn't have to bother about writing half a dozen heads for his front page every week. There aren't any heads." But be of good cheer! The tale with the head is much more attractive to everybody.

Current Editorial Comment

Roosevelt's Attack on the President

Of the course of the revolution, says Mr. Roosevelt, He might as well say that because George Washington did not recognize George III, he is responsible for every evil thing that has since happened in the history of this country. Blood shed and property of one kind or another have been the almost daily feature of Mexican government long before Huerta, Villa or Carranza was born. It would not be difficult to collect thousands of affidavits of this kind. Mr. Roosevelt makes public. Mexico's government has been based upon crime for generations, and an administration which drew its life from an assassin's dagger naturally bred murder and outrage in others. Huerta, not Wilson, is the man who should be blamed. His overturning of a constitutional government, which promised safety and protection to all classes of people, opened the doors to all that has followed. But, strange to say, Mr. Roosevelt pleads the cause of the assassin and the real author of all these recent woes, and seeks to hold up to obloquy the man who has tried with all his strength and patience to restore the evil spirit which has so long dominated Mexico. We hope Mr. Roosevelt will throw out the devil of envy from his own heart. His political fortunes have split on the Wilson rock, but, as yet, he is a good deal shied and too great to let that circumstance affect him.—Baltimore Evening Sun.

England since 1906 been the ally of England, to find the English government in the spring of 1913, as shown in the documents just made public, trying to reassure Belgian apprehensions that England might violate the neutrality of their country. These fears were brought by the Belgian minister to the notice of Sir Edward Grey, who promptly made it clear that England had no such intention, and pointed out that such an act would give Germany an excuse for invading Belgium. This fits in with actual events much better than the theory that for eight years past Belgium has been league with England and France against Germany. In fact, it is but four years since the Pan-Germanists were so actively pushing the Flemish movement in Belgium that England, Wer nervous about, was a good deal disturbed. But, though the Flemings, who are of low German stock, are about half the popula-

tion of Belgium, they showed themselves as firmly resolved on independence as the Walloons, the Dutch or the Swiss, and the Pan-German appeal had little effect. Shall we date from the time of the annexation of Belgium to the Belgians which has been growing in Germany in recent years?—Springfield Republican.

Geography Shifting in Battles

Pending the outcome of the war in Europe, the production of standard maps is suspended, so far as the Eastern Hemisphere is concerned. The largest map-making concern in London announces delay until the terms of the peace convention—in the unknown future—shall determine the new boundaries of states and empires. In the domain of natural science this will cause no difficulty. Cosmic changes will remain the same upon our globe, no matter in what ragged and unforeseen manner the Kings and Emperors may agree to cut up its surface. Weather bureau will continue their prognostications with equal confidence, and no less uncertainty, than to-day; rivers will overflow their banks, avalanches will fall, volcanoes will shake and burst at the will of elemental forces. The only practical disturbance will be that of the youth in our public schools. It will be a new geography which those who have passed the elementary stage will have to acquire by unlearning what they have already absorbed of national limitations of territory on the other side of the world.—Boston Post.

War News Fifty Years Ago

(From the Richmond Dispatch, Dec. 9, 1864.)

There comes a report that up to night before last General Grant had been reinforced by corps from the Valley, believed to be the Fifth and Sixth Corps of the United States Army, and it was confidently expected that, having received these reinforcements, he would have proceeded on yesterday to make an attack upon such an attack did not materialize, although the Confederate forces were just ready for it.

There is a great scarcity of official information from the War Department of the Confederate government, but if a semi-official report that comes to us through a gentleman just from the Petersburg front proves to be correct, a big battle may be expected at any moment. A gentleman reports that the enemy has thrown a force across the river, and is moving north to the south side and effected a landing between Fort Howlett and Drewry's Bluff. There is no official information either to affirm or to deny this statement, but on the face of it there is much probability, and it seems to mean a big fight within the next two days.

During the most of yesterday the sound of cannon reached the ears of all of the citizens of Richmond, but it turned out that the firing was nothing more than the shelling of Butler's Dutch Gap by the Confederate batteries on the south side of the James River.

With the exception of some rather vigorous cannonading on the lines just immediately south of Appomattox River, nothing of interest occurred on the Petersburg front yesterday.

Governor Brown, of Georgia, who has constituted himself the commander-in-chief of all of the Georgia forces to oppose Sherman, has established his headquarters at Macon, which good town is clear of Yankees. From there the Governor has issued a vigorous proclamation which proves that he is not afraid of Sherman and his cohorts.

Judge Holt declined Lincoln's proffer of the attorney-generalship of the United States, and has been named to the Kentucky bench. He has been offered the place. It remains to be seen if he gets there with the consent of the United States Senate.

"During a recent printers' strike in Boston," says the Boston Transcript, a copy of which has been sent through the lines, "the venerable Thantel Willis, who began to set type in 1790, and who published a paper in Richmond, Va., sixty-four years ago, called at the Transcript office and offered his services. The same were accepted, and the old man is at the case and doing mighty fine work."

The House of Delegates of the Virginia General Assembly was called to order yesterday morning by Speaker Hugh G. Sheffey. The distinguished Speaker presiding over the assembly, that a quorum was not present, but, at the same time, he called for the reading of the Governor's message requiring the extraordinary session of the same. The same was read by the clerk, and then there was a roll call of the members, which showed that considerably less than a quorum was present. The House then took a recess to await the coming of delayed members. It is believed that they will in time to draw their per diem. Yes, doubtless.

The Voice of the People

Helped Work of Employment Bureau.

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:
Sir,—I wish to express my appreciation of the article concerning the standard and aim of the Woman's Occupational Bureau, which appeared in the Times-Dispatch of December 7. It is a great deal towards giving the public the benefit of the work of the bureau, and has been directly responsible for bringing so far about ten women to the office who are seeking employment.

Yours truly,
ESTHER A. STEARNES.

Richmond, December 7, 1914.

Who Is Wrong—The City or the Railway?

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:
Sir—Now that bad weather has set in, and as Broad Street, west of Allison Street, is in a shape any small town or hamlet should be ashamed of, citizens of the West End must allow the Virginia Railway and Power Company to stop its cars in such a manner as to make us walk half a city block to the rear entrance of the car, and then run chances of being left by its majesty, the conductor or motorman.

In a recent issue of one of our daily papers, I noticed where our Mayor had issued instructions or requested the company to notify its motormen and conductors that when streets were torn up, or in bad condition that they should stop all cars where the passengers could get on and off without sinking in mud up to their shopets, as well as risking their limbs and lives.

Now is the time for all citizens to think about the new franchise the company is asking. The near-side stop ordinance is in effect, but the company has failed to adopt the near-side equipment that is so necessary to make this ordinance and smoothly run. Now that our city government has given the company this ordinance, let the citizens of Richmond get the city make the company so fix its cars so that the near-side stop entrances as well as exits, or else instruct its motormen and conductors to use a little common sense and stop the rear of their cars on the crossings of unpaved streets in this section, or any other section, of our city.

WALLACE P. KENNEDY.

Richmond, December 8, 1914.

The Bright Side of Life

Distorted Vegetarianism.
"So long as you find the cost of living high," said the friendly adviser, "why don't you and your husband become vegetarians?"
"What do you mean?" asked the worried-looking woman.
"Why, eat only vegetable products."

"Couldn't think of it. What I'm tryin' to do now is to persuade John to take to beefsteak and on a rainy day to live on liquor and tobacco."—Washington Star.

Reason for Suppression.
First Reporter—I ascribed this statement to a person of the first importance in the nation's affairs.
Second Ditto—Why don't you mention his name?
First Reporter—I'm too modest.—Philadelphia Ledger.

SONG FOR DYING AUTUMN.
Upon the pools the ice is mirror-thin;
The leafless branches see their image there;
The frosted barberries gleam like rubies in
The crisp autumnal air.

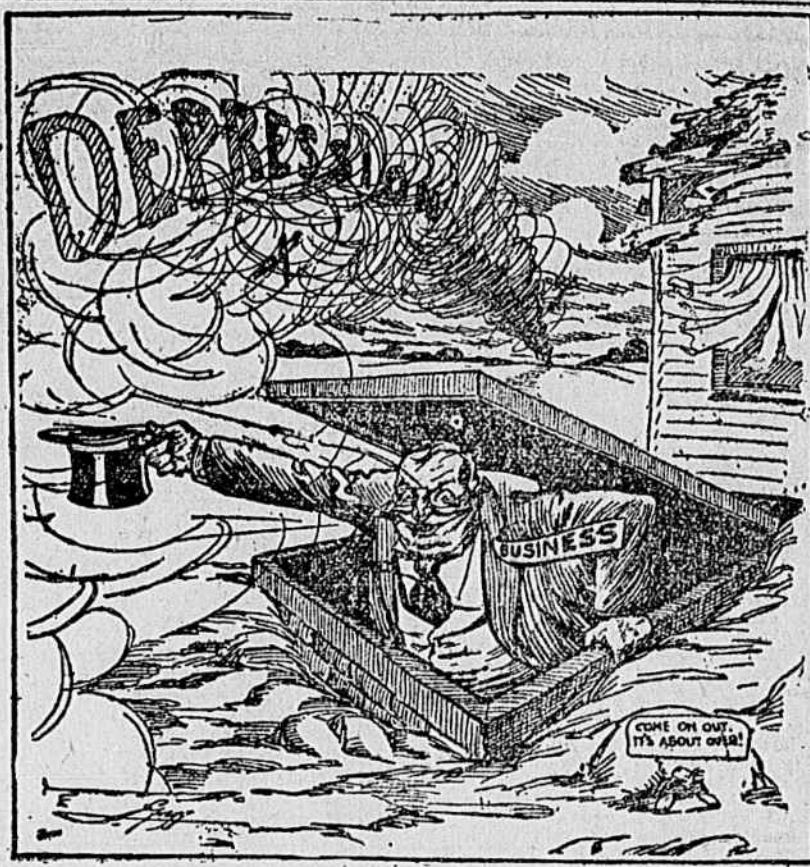
Only the mosses and the lichens shine
With some faint reminiscence of the June;
Only the wind within the hilltop pine
Breathes its eternal rune.

Soon, like a silent wraith, will come a day,
Unheralded by sun or singing streams,
When the forgetful earth will drift away
Down the wide tide of dream.

—Clinton Scollard, in New York Sun.

COMING OUT!

One of the Day's Best Cartoons.



—From the Atlanta Constitution.

GAIN GRADUAL IN ALL BUSINESS

Business and financial conditions throughout the United States are showing gradual and substantial improvement, according to advices received by the Chicago Herald from bankers and business interests.

From San Francisco come reports that the California business has been largely crops in its history, and that the net revenues derived therefrom will be greater than ever before. There is confidence of an early increase of business activity.

In the Pittsburgh steel district much betterment also has been shown. The industries there are awaiting the resumption of purchases by the railroads, which, by the way, have shown improvement since the letters telling of conditions were written.

The largest railroad car, locomotive and steel rail orders that have been placed in months were contracted for late last week.

Orders for pig iron have been larger, both in the Eastern and Southern districts, which usually form the basis for activity in lines of finished steel to follow.

Recent sales of iron are estimated in aggregate of \$6,000,000 to \$7,000,000. The oil and copper industries, which were among the sorest spots during the last year, are beginning to look up. Prices are better and so is the demand.

The dividend record of corporations is improving. Within the last fortnight there have been around 100 dividend meetings, and only three reductions have taken place. Some dividend payments deferred at the preceding quarter have been restored.

Merchandising Quickens.

Despite unseasonable weather the staple merchandising lines are moving with greater freedom. All trade authorities verify this assertion. Collections, too, all over the country are better now than at any time since last spring.

Advices from the Southern States show that business is breaking away from the depressing influences of the cotton situation. The cotton loan fund is restoring confidence.

In Iowa and tributary territory the effect of heavy shipments of grain and the high prices received for these commodities by the producers is reflecting a demand for many things. Railroad traffic is gaining in the growing sections of the country, and complaints from those sections are now few and far between.

The banking position in every section of the country where these reports come is described as being easy. Bankers and business men alike praise the new reserve system, and tell of the possibilities of unimpeded trade expansion, and the development of the broadened credit plans.

Bank clearings all over the country are gaining, the showing in Chicago last week being the largest since July. Money rates are falling, and the demand for funds is abundant and available for all legitimate borrowers.

One encouraging feature in the current situation is the strong increase in demand for securities. The movement has been widespread and aggressive, applying to both stocks and bonds.

The sum total of the situation is that business is getting beyond the spectacular features incident to large orders for war supplies. In other words, the demand for everything is spreading out in point of home consumption, and the war business is becoming more normal. The war business is now weeks ago and kept their purse-strings tightly drawn against all but the most necessary expenditures are loosening their again. Confidence is undeniably returning, and the war business is now more than a month ago, and more mill wheels are spinning.

Pacific Coast Business.

Business conditions on the Pacific Coast are encouraging. According to President Herbert Fleishacker, of the Anglo-London-Paris National Bank of San Francisco, he writes:

"The tonnage of the crops which California has been harvesting exceeds that of the crops of any previous season. As a result of the war, prices for some of the crops have been below normal, while other crops have advanced, but the net return to our people on account of agricultural products will exceed that of any previous year."

"Our petroleum industry is temporarily crippled by lost markets, and a good deal of capital is being absorbed in providing for and financing storage where extraction must continue. Also the production of copper is not profitable in this State at present prices for that metal. Our other mineral industries, however, are prosperous. While the market for forest products is depressed, this condition, in a measure, does not have effect on certain classes of buildings."

"There is considerable unemployment, but nothing approaching that which seems to exist in some industrial centers elsewhere. The war business, since the opening of the Panama Canal, in part at the expense of the transcontinental carriers. There are many indications of general economy, and the volume of trade is less than might be expected from the apparent gross income of the people. As always in California, there is general confidence in an early increase of business activity."

"The financial readjustments resulting from the opening of the reserve bank have not been attended with any special inconvenience, nor has the bank as yet become an active factor

In our finance. There is not at present, except in the larger cities of this district, any great supply of commercial paper eligible for redaction, and it may require some time to induce such changes in our commercial practice as will enable the reserve bank of this district to acquire the full measure of usefulness. That the system will ultimately accomplish the purpose for which it has been created there seems to be no doubt. In this district it is receiving the hearty support of the member banks."

Pittsburgh District.

The situation in the Pittsburgh district, as told by the People's National Bank of that city, follows:

"The actual state of trade in this district was indicated this week in two official statements which are accepted as fairly accurate gauges of volume. The first was the clearing-house report. The exchanges for November were \$191,650,000, a decrease of 15 per cent compared with the same month a year ago, and 18 per cent compared with November of the preceding year."

"The other was the statement for October of the Philadelphia Company system, which virtually operates all the lighting, natural-gas-heating and traction utilities of the district. The aggregate loss being about \$95,000. A part of the decrease in gross earnings was due to the mild weather, which retarded the consumption of natural gas, and part of the decrease was due to the lower price of crude oil, which is now quoted at \$1.45 a barrel for the Pennsylvania grade, against \$2 at this time last year."

"However, a part of the decrease in exchanges as well as in earnings of the public utilities is due to the continued depression in the chief industries. The steel industry, for example, has been reduced to a minimum by consumers employed on reduced time."

"The steel trade is looking a little better. There has been better buying of pig iron, induced by the low price and by the feeling that increased demand after the turn of the year will appear for finished steel; hence makers are anticipating their probable needs for pig iron."

"Some inquiry for products other than war supplies are reported in the market from foreign consumers, but the demand from domestic consumers, and particularly from the railroads, remains very small."

Grain Movement Interesting.